GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2643
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2005
BENEFITS OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the benefits of agricultural research in the country are not reaching the farmers; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps proposed by the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): The benefits of agricultural research are extended to the farmers through the following mechanisms: (i) A permanent public extension system is operated by all the State Governments. Extension functionaries of State Departments of Agriculture, supported by State Agricultural Universities, provide for transfer of farm technologies to farmers.

(ii) The Government of India supplements State`s efforts in this regard as follows:

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research have established a network of 451 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country. The activities of KVKs include `on farm testing` to identify the location specificity of technologies in various farming system; organizing frontline demonstrations to establish its production potentials on the farmers` fields; training of farmers to update their knowledge and skills; and training of extension personnel to orient them in the frontier areas of technology development.

- The Directorate of Extension, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation are implementing several programmes/schemes/activities viz. Mass Media Support to Agricultural Extension, Kisan Call Centres, Establishment of Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres, Innovations in Technology Dissemination under National Agricultural Technology Project, training of senior and middle level extension functionaries of States and gender interventions in agriculture.